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# Major News Releases and Speeches

July 1 - July 8, 1983

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# News Releases

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## USDA ANNOUNCES GUIDELINES FOR 1984 WHEAT PROGRAM

WASHINGTON, July 1—Secretary of Agriculture John R. Block today announced general guidelines concerning the provisions of the 1984 wheat program. The program provisions are tentative but will likely fall within these guidelines:

- An acreage reduction requirement of between 20 and 30 percent.
- An additional land diversion of between 20 and 25 percent with a payment-in-kind compensation for farmers who divert additional land.
- An in-kind compensation of between 70 and 80 percent of program yield.

"These points should provide wheat farmers general guidance for planning purposes," Block said. "We had hoped to announce the 1984 wheat program in more detail, but it is impossible to finalize the provisions until Congress completes its consideration of target price freeze legislation that has been requested by the Administration since January. Without a target price freeze, the tentative program provisions I announced today would be subject to change."

The Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry approved the target price freeze legislation on June 21. The House Committee on Agriculture met on May 25 to consider the legislation, but postponed further consideration.

"Many farmers have already begun to prepare seedbeds and apply fertilizer for the upcoming crop," Block said. "With these financial commitments being made, it is only reasonable that the Congress act judiciously so that we can announce all of the specific program provisions as soon as possible."

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## **U.S., TUNISIA SIGN \$3 MILLION VEGETABLE OIL AGREEMENT**

WASHINGTON, July 1—An amendment to a Public Law 480 Title I agreement was signed here today with the Government of Tunisia providing for the sale of \$3 million worth of edible vegetable oil—cottonseed, soybean and sunflower.

Secretary of Agriculture John R. Block signed for the U.S., and Minister of Agriculture Lassaad Ben Osman signed for Tunisia.

Melvin E. Sims, general sales manager for the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Foreign Agricultural Service, said the dollar credit agreement will provide for the sale of approximately 6,000 metric tons of edible vegetable oil.

The supply period is fiscal year 1983, and the sales will be made by private U.S. traders on a competitive bid basis. Purchase authorizations will be announced as issued.

Tunisia agreed to carry out a number of agricultural self-help measures, including expansion of the geographic area covered by the small farmer credit project. Other self-help measures include increasing the variety of loan activities which the credit project may finance.

For more information, contact Andrew Duymovic or Elizabeth Berry at (202) 382-9219.

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## **USDA ADJUSTS FOOD STAMP LIMITS FOR CHANGE IN COST OF LIVING**

WASHINGTON, July 1—Starting today, income eligibility limits for people who use food stamps will increase, reflecting changes in the cost of living since last year.

Under the new guidelines, a family of four can have a gross income of \$1,073 a month and still be eligible for assistance. Previously, the monthly income limit was \$1,008, Assistant Secretary of Agriculture Mary C. Jarratt said today.

The food stamp program currently provides food help to 22.5 million Americans.

Congress requires the U.S. Department of Agriculture to update the eligibility guidelines each July 1, reflecting changes in the Consumer Price Index.

Following are the income limits for households of various sizes for the continental U.S., Guam and the U.S. Virgin Islands. Alaska and Hawaii are somewhat higher.

### Gross Monthly Income Eligibility Standards\*

Household Size	
1	\$ 527
2	709
3	891
4	1,073
5	1,255
6	1,437
7	1,619
8	1,801
Each additional member	+182

\*In 48 states, District of Columbia, Guam and Virgin Islands.

#

### USDA RELEASES COST OF FOOD AT HOME FOR MAY

WASHINGTON, July 5—The U.S. Department of Agriculture today released its monthly update of the weekly cost of food at home for May 1983.

USDA's Human Nutrition Information Service computes the cost of food at home for four food plans—thrifty, low-cost, moderate-cost and liberal.

Isabel Wolf, administrator of the Human Nutrition Information Service, said the plans consist of foods that provide well-balanced meals and snacks for a week.

USDA assumes all food is bought at the store and prepared at

home. Costs do not include alcoholic beverages, pet food, soap, cigarettes, paper goods and other nonfood items bought at the store.

"USDA costs are only guides to spending," Wolf said. "Families may spend more or less, depending on such factors as where they buy their food, how carefully they plan and buy, whether some food is produced at home, what foods the family likes and how much food is prepared at home.

"Most families will find the moderate-cost or low-cost plan suitable," she said. "The thrifty plan, which USDA uses to set the coupon allotment in the food stamp program, is for families with less money for food. Families with unlimited resources might use the liberal plan."

Details of the four food plans are described in Home and Garden Bulletin No. 94, "Family Food Budgeting. . .for Good Meals and Good Nutrition," which may be purchased for \$2.50 each from the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402.

### Cost Of Food At Home For A Week In May 1983

	Plans			
	Thrifty	Low-cost	Moderate-cost	Liberal
Families:				
Family of 2 (20-54 years)	\$34.60	\$44.80	\$56.10	\$67.20
Family of 2 (55 years and over)	31.20	40.00	49.70	59.30
Family of 4 with preschool children	49.20	62.90	78.40	93.80
Family of 4 with elementary school children	59.30	76.00	95.40	114.10

*(Table continued on next page)*



**Cost Of Food At Home For A Week In May 1983—*continued***

	Plans			
	Thrifty	Low-cost	Moderate-cost	Liberal
Individuals in four-person families:				
Children:				
1-2 years	8.00	10.10	12.50	14.80
3-5 years	9.70	12.10	14.90	17.90
6-8 years	12.30	15.70	19.70	23.50
9-11 years	15.50	19.60	24.70	29.50
Females:				
12-19 years	14.60	18.60	23.10	27.50
20-54 years	14.10	18.20	22.60	27.00
55 and over	12.90	16.50	20.40	24.20
Males:				
12-14 years	16.50	20.80	26.00	31.10
15-19 years	18.00	23.00	28.80	34.50
20-54 years	17.40	22.50	28.40	34.10
55 and over	15.50	19.90	24.80	29.70

To estimate your family food costs

— For members eating all meals at home—or carried from home—use the amounts shown.

— For members eating some meals out, deduct 5 percent from the amount shown for each meal not eaten at home. Thus, for a person eating lunch out five days a week, subtract 25 percent, or one-fourth the cost shown.

— For guests, add 5 percent of the amount shown for the proper age group for each meal.

Costs in the second part of the chart are for individuals in four-person families. If your family has more or less than four, total the "individual" figures and make these adjustments, because larger families tend to buy and use food more economically than smaller ones:

- For a one-person family, add 20 percent.
- For a two-person family, add 10 percent.
- For a three-person family, add 5 percent.
- For a family of five or six persons, subtract 5 percent.
- For a family of seven or more, subtract 10 percent.

#

## **NEW INCOME LIMITS FOR FREE AND REDUCED PRICE SCHOOL MEALS, WIC PROGRAM**

WASHINGTON, July 5—Increased income limits for free and reduced price school meals and for the special supplemental food program for women, infants and children (WIC) became effective July 1, an official of the U.S. Department of Agriculture said.

Assistant Secretary of Agriculture Mary C. Jarratt said the income limit for free school meals will go from \$12,090 to \$12,870 annually for a family of four. The limit for reduced-priced meals will go from \$17,210 to \$18,315.

A family of four may receive up to \$18,315 and still take part in the WIC program. Previously, the income limit was \$17,210.

Congress requires USDA to update the eligibility guidelines each July 1, reflecting changes in the consumer price index. The guidelines affect the national school lunch, school breakfast, special milk, and child care food programs, all administered by USDA's Food and Nutrition Service at the federal level.

Maximum annual gross income limits for participation in these programs are:

Household Size	Free Meal Eligibility	Reduced Price Eligibility
1	\$ 6,318	\$ 8,991
2	\$ 8,502	\$12,099
3	\$10,686	\$15,207
4	\$12,870	\$18,315
5	\$15,054	\$21,423
6	\$17,238	\$24,531
7	\$19,422	\$27,639
8	\$21,606	\$30,747
For each additional family member add:	\$ 2,184	\$ 3,108

(Alaska and Hawaii are somewhat higher.)

Effective July 1, state and local agencies will begin applying the new income eligibility standards to all new applicants, as well as to all ongoing participants at their next certification. The law provides that state agencies set income guidelines not more than 185 percent, nor less than 100 percent of the income poverty guidelines for each family size.

The WIC program now serves a record 2.4 million participants a monthly package of supplemental foods. The program purpose is to improve the health and nutritional status of low-income pregnant, breastfeeding and postpartum women, infants and children under 5 by providing nutritious supplemental foods, nutrition education and access to health services.

Maximum gross income limits to participate in the WIC program are:

Family Size	WIC Eligibility
1	\$ 8,991
2	\$12,099
3	\$15,207
4	\$18,315
5	\$21,423
6	\$24,531
7	\$27,639
8	\$30,747
For each additional family member add	\$3,108

(Alaska and Hawaii are somewhat higher.)

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## **USDA INCREASES USER FEES FOR COTTON CLASSING SERVICES**

WASHINGTON, July 5—The U.S. Department of Agriculture has issued an interim final rule that will increase the user fee for cotton classing services for cotton producers to \$1.15 per bale for the 1983 season starting July 1. The fee was 67 cents per bale last year.

At the same time, USDA has proposed about a 4 percent increase in fees it charges for cotton futures classing, cotton linters grading and related services, and the supervision of cottonseed grading. These services are used mainly by merchants, manufacturers and cottonseed breeders.

Jesse F. Moore, cotton official with USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service, said the increase in the classing fees for growers is needed because there will be no funds appropriated this year for the services and because a smaller crop will increase the unit cost of classing each bale.

The interim final rule also provides the following fee schedules:

- An additional fee of 45 cents per bale for optional high volume instrument classing.
- A discount of 5 cents per bale where fees are centrally billed and collected through voluntary agents. Approximately 90 percent of the fees currently are collected in this manner.

User fees for cotton classing were mandated under provisions of the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1981. In the past two seasons, costs of the service were supplemented with appropriated federal funds. Use of USDA cotton classing services by cotton producers is voluntary.

The interim final rule and other fee proposals will be published in the July 6 Federal Register. Comments on them, which will be accepted by USDA through Sept. 5, should be sent to Loyd R. Frazier, Cotton Division, 306 Annex, AMS, USDA, Washington, D.C. 20250.

#

## **CCC ANNOUNCES JULY LOAN INTEREST RATE OF 9-1/2 PERCENT"**

WASHINGTON, July 5—Commodity and farm storage loans disbursed in July by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Commodity Credit Corporation will carry a 9-1/2 percent interest rate, according to CCC Executive Vice President Everett Rank.

The new rate, up from 8-3/4 percent, reflects the interest rate charged CCC by the U.S. Treasury in July, Rank said.

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## **USDA CHANGES ELIGIBILITY RULES FOR PLANT VARIETY PROTECTION**

WASHINGTON, July 5—Eligibility for United States protection of plant varieties developed by foreign nationals will be changed under a final rule announced today by the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Vern F. Highley, administrator of USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service, said the change is being made to bring United States protection

regulations into line with the International Union for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants. The rule, proposed in February, will go into effect Aug. 5.

The change makes nationals and residents of UPOV member states eligible for the same protection provided to U.S. citizens.

Highley said the extent of protection foreign nationals now can receive in the United States is limited by separate reciprocity agreements between countries. That limitation still will apply to citizens of countries not in UPOV.

He said the United States became a member of UPOV in 1981 and must meet the treaty requirements of the organization if U.S. citizens are to receive similar privileges in the other 15 UPOV member countries.

"This could result in an increase in the number of varieties available to U.S. agriculture," he said. It also would expand markets for U.S. breeders by allowing them to acquire protection of varieties in UPOV member countries.

Highley said eligibility will be determined from the date of marketing a variety in a foreign country. The breeder will have six years in the case of woody plants, or four years for all other plants to file their applications.

The plant variety protection program provides marketing protection for newly developed seed-reproduced plant varieties, ranging from flowers to farm crops.

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## **USDA BILLS SIX STATES FOR HIGH FOOD STAMP ERROR RATES**

WASHINGTON, July 5—The U.S. Department of Agriculture will bill six states for more than \$8 million for food stamp error rates above an acceptable level, Assistant Secretary of Agriculture Mary C. Jarratt said today.

Jarratt said the states to be billed are: Arizona, Alaska, Colorado, New Hampshire, Connecticut and Florida. These states, along with five other states and Guam, were notified last November that their error



rates for the reporting period April-September, 1981, were above the national error rate of 12.6 percent, or their individual goal for that period.

"Each state was given the opportunity to request that their penalties be reduced or eliminated through the 'good cause' provision of the error rate sanction system," Jarratt said.

Examples of good cause provisions include efforts to correct the problems leading to high error rates which result in substantial reductions in those rates and significant caseload growth prior to or during a six month reporting period.

Guam and all the states notified submitted good cause requests. However, USDA's Food and Nutrition Service determined that six states did not qualify because their good cause requests did not meet the department's corrective action standards. The amounts the states are being billed are: Arizona, \$236,206; Alaska, \$2,148,102; Colorado, \$821,180; New Hampshire, \$285,165; Connecticut, \$1,338,545; Florida, \$3,801,937.

The states will have 30 days from billing to respond to their bill.

The error rates are part of USDA's food stamp quality control system which measures the accuracy of a household's eligibility for benefits and determines whether the correct coupon allotment was issued to eligible households.

States are required by law to bring their food stamp error rates in line with the national average or, in some cases, to make substantial progress toward reaching the national average. Under the law, states can get enhanced administrative funding based on their error rate performance.

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## **USDA HELPS FIND THE BEST BUYS IN MEATS AND MEAT ALTERNATES**

WASHINGTON, July 6—Beef liver, turkey, chicken, ground beef, pork shoulder, and whole ham were found to be the best meat buys in a recent study by the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

The economy of a cut depends on the amount of cooked lean meat or the number of servings it provides, as well as its price per pound, according to Isabel Wolf, administrator of USDA's Human Nutrition Information Service.

"A relatively high-priced meat with little or no waste may be more economical than a low-priced cut with a great deal of bone, gristle or fat," she said.

Prices in this study, which included meat alternates as well as selected types and cuts of meat, poultry and fish, were for four consecutive weeks in June 1983 in five Washington, D.C., area supermarkets.

The study also compared the costs of 20 grams of protein—about one-third of the recommended allowance for a young man—from selected meats and alternates. Some meat alternates—such as dry beans, peanut butter and eggs—are as good or are better buys than less expensive cuts of meat. However, some processed meat products, such as salami and bologna, were found to cost more as sources of protein than pork roasts and some beef roasts.

Wolf said while a 3-ounce serving of cooked lean meat, poultry or fish provides 20 grams of protein or more, the amount of some alternates and meat products required to provide 20 grams of protein is well over the amount people normally eat in a day. For example, it takes one and one-half cups of cooked dry beans, four frankfurters, or 10 slices of bacon to provide 20 grams of protein.

Wolf said consumers can use the following tables to obtain comparable costs for meat and alternates in their supermarkets by multiplying the part of the market unit figure by the local price per unit.



# Estimated Cost Of Meats And Alternates

Cost of 3 ounces of cooked lean from specified meat, poultry and fish—average using prices for 4 consecutive weeks in five Washington, D.C., area supermarkets—June 1983:

Food	Retail price per pound <sup>1</sup>	Part of pound for 3 ounces of cooked lean	Cost of 3 ounces of cooked lean
Beef liver	\$0.98	.27	\$0.26
Turkey, ready-to-cook	.70	.41	.29
Chicken, whole, ready-to-cook	.60	.55	.33
Ground beef, regular	1.45	.28	.41
Pork shoulder, smoked, bone in	.90	.46	.41
Ham, whole, bone in	1.18	.38	.45
Ground beef, lean	1.78	.26	.46
Ocean perch, filet, frozen	1.96	.27	.53
Chicken breasts	1.35	.40	.54
Ham, canned	2.35	.25	.59
Haddock, filet, frozen	2.46	.27	.66
Chuck roast of beef, bone in	1.68	.45	.76
Pork loin roast, bone in	1.86	.41	.76
Rump roast of beef, bone out	2.28	.34	.78
Leg of lamb, whole, bone in	2.26	.42	.95
Bottom round beefsteak, bone out	3.01	.32	.96
Pork chops, center cut	2.66	.42	1.12
Sirloin beefsteak, bone in	3.16	.43	1.36
Rib roast of beef, bone in	3.62	.45	1.63
Veal cutlets	7.72	.25	1.93
Porterhouse beefsteak, bone in	4.18	.52	2.17
Lamb chops, loin	5.32	.46	2.45

Cost of 20 grams of protein from specified meats and meat alternates at June 1983 prices:

Food	Market unit	Price per market unit <sup>1</sup>	Part of market unit to give 20 grams of protein <sup>2</sup>	Cost of 20 grams of protein
Dry beans	lb	\$0.40	.24	\$0.10
Bread, white, enriched <sup>3</sup>	22 oz	.44	.37	.16
Turkey, ready-to-cook	lb	.70	.33	.23
Peanut butter	18 oz	1.51	.15	.23
Beef liver	lb	.98	.24	.24
Chicken, whole, ready-to-cook	lb	.60	.42	.25
Milk, whole, fluid <sup>4</sup>	gal	1.57	.16	.25
Eggs, large	doz	.92	.28	.26
Pork shoulder, smoked, bone in	lb	.90	.32	.29
Bean soup, canned	11.25 oz	.42	.82	.34
Chicken breasts	lb	1.35	.27	.36
Tuna, canned	6.5 oz	.84	.44	.37
Ham, whole, bone in	lb	1.18	.33	.39
Ground beef, lean	lb	1.78	.25	.44
Sardines, canned	3.75 oz	.53	.90	.48
American process cheese	8 oz	1.25	.40	.50
Frankfurters	lb	1.36	.39	.53
Pork sausage	lb	1.13	.47	.53
Chuck roast of beef, bone in	lb	1.68	.35	.59
Rump roast of beef, bone out	lb	2.28	.26	.59
Bacon, sliced	lb	1.13	.52	.59
Ham, canned	lb	2.35	.26	.61
Ocean perch, filet, frozen	lb	1.96	.31	.61
Pork loin roast, bone in	lb	1.86	.35	.65

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Food	Market unit	Price per market unit <sup>1</sup>	Part of market unit to give 20 grams of protein <sup>2</sup>	Cost of 20 grams of protein
Bottom round beefsteak, bone out	lb	3.01	.22	.66
Leg of lamb, whole, bone in	lb	2.26	.30	.68
Liverwurst	8 oz	1.08	.65	.70
Haddock, filet, frozen	lb	2.46	.31	.76
Salami	8 oz	1.31	.63	.83
Pork chops, center cut	lb	2.66	.32	.85
Bologna	8 oz	1.15	.75	.86
Sirloin beefsteak, bone in	lb	3.16	.28	.88
Rib roast of beef, bone in	lb	3.62	.33	1.19
Porterhouse beefsteak, bone in	lb	4.18	.34	1.42
Lamb chops, loin	lb	5.32	.32	1.70
Veal cutlets	lb	7.72	.23	1.78

<sup>1</sup>An average using prices for 4 consecutive weeks in 5 Washington, D.C., area supermarkets. Prices for processed items are for the least costly brand in the market unit specified.

<sup>2</sup>One-third of the daily amount recommended for a 20-year-old man. Assumes that all meat is eaten.

<sup>3</sup>Bread and other grain products, such as pasta and rice, are frequently used with a small amount of meat, poultry, fish or cheese as main dishes in economy meals. In this way the high-quality protein in meat and cheese enhances the lower quality of protein in cereal products.

<sup>4</sup>Although milk is not used to replace meat in meals, it is an economical source of good-quality protein.

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## USDA RESOLVES 15 ANIMAL WELFARE CHARGES IN 5-MONTH PERIOD

WASHINGTON, July 6—From Feb. 1, 1983, to June 30, the U.S. Department of Agriculture resolved a total of 15 charges involving violations of the Animal Welfare Act, and 28 new charges of violating the act were filed.

This compares with 8 charges resolved and 21 charges filed in the like period a year ago, according to Dr. Richard L. Rissler, supervisor of field enforcement of the act for USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

The new charges bring the overall total to 255 cases where legal action was taken since the first case, filed in 1968, Rissler said.

"The violations should not overshadow the fact that the majority of our 7,000 licensees and registrants abide by the Animal Welfare Act," Rissler said. "The act sets standards of animal care and treatment covering handling, housing, feeding, watering, sanitation, ventilation, shelter from inclement weather, separation of incompatible animals, veterinary care and transportation."

These cases were resolved:

— Bell County Zoo in Texas and USDA-licensed owner Richard Hix were not held responsible for the death of two monkeys that escaped while being loaded for transfer to their exhibit. Evidence presented to a federal administrative law judge revealed that though Hix was present at the Ellen Trout Zoo in Lufkin, Texas, at the time of the mishap, he was not involved. To resolve charges against them in this matter, the Ellen Trout Zoo earlier paid a penalty of \$100 and agreed to devote at least \$200 to training its employees in animal handling.

— John Aynes, a USDA-licensed exhibitor who formerly operated Animal Actors of Oklahoma in Choctaw, Okla., agreed to have his exhibitor's license revoked to settle charges that he maintained substandard facilities. The charge against Aynes also held him responsible for injuries to a two-year-old girl who was bitten by a tiger he owned; for the death of a jaguar that had to be shot by police after it escaped; and for the death of a zebra exposed to inclement weather.

— John Joyner, a dog dealer and owner of Bird World in Clovis, N.M., was given a suspended sentence of five years in prison and placed on three years of supervised probation after pleading guilty to

operating without a federal license. A U.S. Magistrate in federal court in New Mexico ordered Joyner to perform 100 hours of community service under the terms of his probation. Joyner now lives near Lubbock, Texas.

— Sharon M. Melton, a licensed dealer from Spooner, Wis., charged with violating housing and housekeeping standards for dogs, agreed to accept an order to cease and desist from future infractions. Violation of this order can result in a fine of up to \$500 for each instance.

— Charges alleging that Myrtle Kleist of Elbert, Colo., sold dogs without a license were dropped because the dealer died.

— Judith A. Missler, a guinea pig dealer from Dundee, Mich., voluntarily surrendered her federal dealer's license, thus barring her from the wholesale pet market. She had been charged with not providing proper housing and living conditions for her animals.

— The Menry Doorly Zoo, a USDA-licensed exhibit in Omaha, Neb., was issued a cease-and-desist order after being charged with improperly crating and shipping a bear to Philadelphia, Pa. United Airlines, a USDA-registered carrier of live animals, earlier paid a fine for its involvement in the incident, which resulted in the death of the bear.

— Antonio Alentado, a licensed animal dealer from Miami, Fla., agreed to pay a \$250 penalty and abide by an order to cease and desist from future violations of the Animal Welfare Act. He had been charged with shipping five monkeys from Miami to Houston, Texas, in substandard crates.

— Randy and Mary Berhow, USDA licensed operators of M & R Kennels in Cylinder, Iowa, were ordered to suspend business operations for at least 60 days, pay a fine of \$750, and abide by an order to cease and desist from further violations. The dealers had been charged with multiple housing and housekeeping violations at their breeding kennels.

— Aeromech Airlines, a USDA-registered carrier of animals based in Clarksburg, W.Va., agreed to pay a \$150 penalty to settle charges involving shipping 12 rabbits from Parkersburg, W. Va., to Washington, D.C. They were shipped in cardboard boxes that were unsuited for animals.



— Trans World Airlines, Inc., was fined \$1,000 to settle a charge that they carried four puppies from St. Louis, Mo., to Saugus, Mass., in substandard crates.

— In a separate action, the shipper of the four puppies, Iola M. Wait, a USDA-licensed dog breeder in Kirksville, Mo., paid a \$500 penalty for her involvement in the incident.

— The Utica Zoo, a USDA-licensed exhibit in New York, consented to an order to cease and desist from violating the Animal Welfare Act. They corrected defects in their yak exhibit that had been cited in the federal complaint, but they closed their elk exhibit rather than attempt to correct cited deficiencies.

— Ohio State University, a registered research facility in Columbus, Ohio, consented to pay a \$500 fine and to cease-and-desist from future violations. They had been charged with failure to provide proper care to laboratory cats, resulting in injuries to approximately 40 of the animals.

— St. Vincent's Hospital and Medical Center of New York, another registered research facility, was ordered by a federal administrative law judge to submit timely reports on its use of laboratory animals. These reports are the principal check on whether pain relief mandated by the Animal Welfare Act is provided in appropriate cases. The hospital had sent no report for 1980 and its 1982 report was late.

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## **VETERINARIANS TEST 1,200 ILLINOIS SWINE FOR PSEUDORABIES; IOWA BEGINS**

WASHINGTON, July 6—State and federal veterinarians have completed testing on more than 1,200 swine in two Illinois counties as part of a pilot project to eradicate pseudorabies within a limited area, a U.S. Department of Agriculture veterinarian said today.

In addition to the pilot project in Illinois, a second project began in Marshall County, Iowa, July 5. This will be a cooperative effort of USDA, the Iowa Department of Agriculture, swine producers and accredited veterinarians.

Dr. L. W. Schnurrenberger, staff veterinarian with USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, said herd testing in Detroit

Township, Pike County, Ill., is nearly complete in the cooperative state-federal project that was launched in April with the support of local producers and the swine industry. A similar testing effort began June 6 in South Palmyra and South Otter Townships, Macoupin County.

Dr. James E. Christy, USDA veterinarian in charge for Illinois, said testing in the Pike County portion of the Illinois project has revealed 10 herds with pseudorabies-infected swine out of 39 tested. These include 65 positive animals out of 945 tested.

To date, 20 herds have been tested in South Palmyra and South Otter Townships; however, test results have not yet been tabulated.

Testing is being done by a task force of veterinarians and technicians from USDA and the Illinois Department of Agriculture. When infected herds are found, veterinarians then help owners develop individual herd cleanup plans.

As an example, Christy said, one producer with a small herd sent 14 breeding swine to slaughter to eliminate infection. The remaining 14 feeder pigs will be isolated until they can be slaughtered at market weight. The premises will then be cleaned, disinfected and restocked with pseudorabies-free swine.

Each herd plan is tailored to the needs of the individual producer, said Christy.

"This will demonstrate how producers can benefit while contributing directly toward the eradication of pseudorabies," Christy said.

In both states, veterinarians are monitoring swine movements as a check against infection from outside sources. Subsequent retesting will determine the reduction of pseudorabies and need for further action. The Illinois pilot project also includes the study of an experimental pseudorabies skin test, which is being administered concurrently with the normal blood serum testing.

This skin test, developed by Don Gustafson of Purdue University, could identify pseudorabies positive herds within 18 to 24 hours after injection, if the procedure can be perfected. The serum neutralization test for pseudorabies requires laboratory work and about 72 hours.

These pilot projects are the result of strong support from swine producers and state officials, Schnurrenberger said.

A \$100,000 contribution by the National Pork Producers Council, together with state and federal funds, are making these projects

possible, he said. In both Iowa and Illinois, local producers met with officials and endorsed the projects before the programs were started.

Pseudorabies, also known as Aujeszky's disease or "mad itch" can be transmitted to most other warmblooded animals except humans. Swine are the natural host and, once infected, can become carriers of the disease and shed the virus when they become stressed.

Vaccines are available to minimize losses from the disease. However, they do not prevent infection. Also, current tests do not distinguish between vaccinated and infected swine.

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## **USDA ANNOUNCES DIETARY GUIDELINES ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING**

WASHINGTON, July 6—The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Dietary Guidelines Advisory Committee will meet July 20 and 21 in Room 3056 at the USDA, South Building, Washington, D.C. The session begins at 1:30 p.m. on July 20, and at 8:30 a.m. on July 21.

The meeting is open to the public.

The dietary guidelines advisory committee was established to review comments received on "Nutrition and Your Health: Dietary Guidelines for Americans," and to make any recommendations the committee deems appropriate.

The July agenda will include a brief review and discussion of new research findings related to each of the seven dietary guidelines.

Written statements may be sent to Isabel D. Wolf, administrator, Human Nutrition Information Service, USDA, 6525 Belcrest Rd., Room 522, Hyattsville, Md. 20782. Statements will be received until Sept. 1.

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## **CONGRESSIONAL ACTION ON FOOD STAMP FUNDING NEEDED**

WASHINGTON, July 7—In accordance with the Food Stamp Act of 1977, the U.S. Department of Agriculture today will notify all states to prepare for a potential deficiency in food stamp funding beginning in August as required by law.

However, Secretary of Agriculture John R. Block cautioned against alarm, since he believes Congress will take action on a six-month-old supplemental funding request for the program in sufficient time to continue paying benefits.

In January, USDA requested \$1.2 billion in supplemental funding after re-evaluating program participation projections for the current fiscal year. Congress has not yet passed supplemental funds for food stamps. Therefore, Block said USDA still is legally bound to issue the notifications to states in the event Congress does not appropriate added funds.

"This is a situation which the Congress certainly needs to address quickly," Block said. "It is important that 22 million food stamp recipients are not alarmed needlessly. We were required by law to make this notification to the states."

About \$260 million is needed to fully fund food stamp benefits for August. The remainder is needed for September to fully fund food stamps for the current fiscal year. The additional funding will bring food stamp spending to \$12 billion for this fiscal year.

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## **USDA GRAIN ADVISORY COMMITTEE TO MEET JULY 27**

WASHINGTON, July 7—The Federal Grain Inspection Service Advisory Committee of the U.S. Department of Agriculture will meet on July 27 at 8:30 a.m. in USDA's South Building, room 2096.

The agenda includes financial matters, grain moisture issues, proposed changes in the scale regulations, reports on the quality control plan, barge seal study and grain standards proposals; and USDA's role in grain elevator safety.

The meeting is open to the public. However, public participation will be limited to written statements submitted before or at the meeting, unless participation is requested by the committee chairman.

Anyone who wishes to address the committee may contact Kenneth A. Gilles, administrator of USDA's Federal Grain Inspection Service, USDA, Washington, D.C. 20250. Telephone: (202) 382-0219.

The committee provides advice to the Federal Grain Inspection Service administrator on the efficient and economical implementation of the U.S. Grain Standards Act to assure the orderly and timely movement of grain.

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